

DOCKET NO.:IBIS-0007

PATENT

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 126, line 24 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--While there are a number of ways to identify compounds likely to interact with molecular interaction sites of RNA and other biological molecules, preferred methodologies are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,221,587 and 6,253,168 and in applications having U.S. Serial Nos. 09/076,447, 09/076,206, and 09/076,214. All of the foregoing are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, ~~17~~, 18 and 36 without prejudice to their presentation in a continuation application.

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 17-23 and 26-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 3, 17, 18 and 36 have been cancelled. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 19-23 and 26-35 will be pending.

The specification has been amended to update the status of applications referred to therein.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview at the PTO on July 26, 2001. The present Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is based upon the substance of the interview.

It was agreed upon during the interview that Applicants' amendment of the paragraph beginning at page 94, line 25 of the specification to recite that which was originally filed would result in withdrawal of the new matter rejection. Applicants have amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the enablement rejection in connection therewith (see page 2 of the Advisory Action).

Claims 2, 3, 17, 18 and 36 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chen *et al.*, *Biochemistry*, 1997, 36, 11402-11407 (hereinafter, the "Chen reference"). Although Applicants disagree with the reasons asserted in the Office Action and

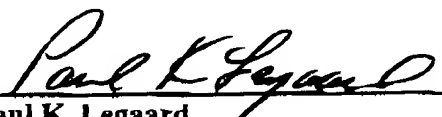
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Advisory Action, solely to advance prosecution of the present application, Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 3, 17, 18 and 36 without prejudice to their presentation in a continuation application. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) is rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing, claims 19-23 and 26-35 are in condition for allowance. An early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (215) 564-8906 if there are any questions regarding Applicants' claimed invention. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 22, line 17 of the specification has been amended as follows:

While there are a number of ways to characterize binding between molecular interaction sites and ligands, such as for example, organic compounds, preferred methodologies are described in [U.S. patent applications filed on even date herewith and assigned to the assignee of this invention. These application bear U.S. Serial Nos. (Unknown) and have been assigned attorney docket numbers IBIS-0002, IBIS-0003, IBIS-0004, IBIS-0005, and IBIS-0006.] U.S. Patent Nos. 6,221,587 and 6,253,168 and in applications having U.S. Serial Nos. 09/076,447, 09/076,206, and 09/076,214. All of the foregoing [applications] are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety

Paragraph beginning at page 94, line 25 of the specification has been amended as follows:

The three dimensional structure of a molecular interaction site, preferably of an RNA, can be manipulated as a numerical representation. Computer software that provides one skilled in the art with the ability to design molecules based on the chemistry being performed and on available reaction building blocks is commercially available. Software packages from companies such as, for example, [Sybil/Base (Tripos,] Tripos (St. Louis, MO), [Insight II (Molecular Simulations,] Molecular Simulations (San Diego, CA), [and Sculpt (MDL Information Systems,] MDL Information Systems (San Leandro, CA) and Chemical Design (NJ) provide means for computational generation of structures. These software products also provide means for evaluating and comparing computationally generated molecules and their structures. *In silico* collections of molecular interaction sites can be generated using the software from any of the above-mentioned vendors and others which are or may become available.

Paragraph beginning at page 101, line 10 of the specification has been amended as follows:

Certain preferred evaluation techniques employing mass spectroscopy are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. [XX/XXX,XXX] 09/076,206 filed on even date herewith and assigned to the assignee of the present application. The foregoing patent application is incorporated herein

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by reference in its entirety as exemplary of certain useful and preferred mass spectrometric techniques for use herewith. It is to be specifically understood, however, that it is not essential that these particular mass spectrometric techniques be employed in order to perform the present invention. Rather, any evaluative technique may be undertaken so long as the objectives of the present invention are maintained.

Paragraph beginning at page 126, line 24 of the specification has been amended as follows:

While there are a number of ways to identify compounds likely to interact with molecular interaction sites of RNA and other biological molecules, preferred methodologies are described in [U.S. patent applications filed on even date herewith and assigned to the assignee of this invention. These application bear U.S. Serial Nos. (Unknown) and have been assigned attorney docket numbers IBIS-0002, IBIS 0003, IBIS-0004, IBIS-0006 and IBIS-0007.] U.S. Patent Nos. 6,221,587 and 6,253,168 and in applications having U.S. Serial Nos. 09/076,447, 09/076,206, and 09/076,214. All of the foregoing [applications] are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

In the Claims:

Claims 2, 3, 17, 18 and 36 have been cancelled.